

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 /085 W

-----065446 031754Z /43

R 021725Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3018

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4870

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, XA, MO

SUBJ: GOM ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA

REF: STATE 208244

1. MOROCCAN ATTITUDES TOWARD NIGERIA HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED SOMEWHAT NEGATIVELY BY MOROCCO'S GREATER AFFINITY WITH THE FRANCOPHONE STATES OF BLACK AFRICA AND LATELY THE NIGERIAN POSTURE ON THE SAHARA QUESTION. HOWEVER, MODERATING THE GOM'S APPROACH TO NIGERIA ARE NIGERIA'S OBVIOUS POTENTIAL IN AFRICAN COUNCILS, ITS LARGE MOSLEM POPULATION, AND A PERCEIVED SENSE HERE THAT NIGERIA, WHILE NOT PRO-MOROCCAN ON THE SAHARA, WOULD PROBABLY LEND ITS WEIGHT TO A COMPROMISE SOLUTION IN CASE OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. TO ADDRESS REFTEL'S SPECIFIC POINTS,

A) PRESENT NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE NO DIRECT READOUT ON THIS, BUT THE GOM IS PROBABLY CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE ON NIGERIA'S PRESENT LEADERSHIP. THE GOM ADOPTED A POSITIVE, IF SOMEWHAT DISTANT, POSTURE TOWARD THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S MEDIATION EFFORTS DURING THE SAHARA CRISIS. THE KEY TO ITS APPROACH TO BILATERAL RELATIONS, HOWEVER, WILL BE THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S

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STANCE ON THE SAHARA.

B) NIGERIA'S ROLE IN AFRICA. THE GOM IS NOT BLIND TO NIGERIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC/FINANCIAL POTENTIAL, BUT IT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE FIGURED OUT HOW TO RELATE TO IT IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY.

C) NIGERIA AS A SPOKESMAN. THIS IS MORE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. TO THE EXTENT, HOWEVER, THAT LEADERS SUCH AS SENGHOR AND HOUPHOUET ARE IN SUBTLE COMPETITION WITH NIGERIA FOR THIS

MANTLE, THE GOM WILL STICK WITH THE KNOWN QUANTITY OF FRANCOPHONE  
FRIENDS. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE AN EVOLUTION OF GOM ATTITUDES  
IF NIGERIA WERE TO BEGIN TO ASSERT ITSELF IN A WAY ACCEPTABLE  
TO MOROCCO'S CLOSER BLACK AFRICAN COLLEAGUES.  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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